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February 25, 2004

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**INDIANAPOLIS WOMAN CHARGED WITH
UNLAWFUL PURCHASE OF FIREARMS FOR CHICAGO MEN**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that DEBRA BURNETT, 36, of Indianapolis, Indiana, was charged with making false statements in connection with the acquisition of firearms. This case, which was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, is being prosecuted as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative to reduce gun violence.

The information alleges that on or about May 2, 2003, BURNETT made false statements in connection with her purchase of two handguns from Don's Gun's and Galleries, Inc., a

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licensed firearms dealer, by representing that she was the actual buyer of the handguns when in fact she was acquiring the firearms on behalf of another person.

Note - the following facts are not in the information, but are contained in the affidavits in support of the criminal complaints that were filed both here and in Chicago.

According to Assistant United States Attorney James P. Hanlon, who is prosecuting the case for the government, BURNETT is alleged to have purchased the two handguns for two Chicago men, Chester Meeks and Wallace Nunn, in exchange for money. Meeks and Nunn, both of whom are convicted felons, have been charged in federal court in Chicago with willfully transporting the guns they obtained in Indiana into Illinois, their state of residence, and with the unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

BURNETT, if convicted, faces up to 10 years' imprisonment. An initial hearing before a Magistrate Judge will be held in the near future.

The information is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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